

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PORT A 03513 161538Z
ACTION SY-05

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 /016 W
----- 029177 /63
R 161334Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3591
INFO AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

UNCLAS PORT AU PRINCE 3513

EO 11652 N/A
TAGS: ASEC
SUBJECT: CHANGE IN LEVEL OF GUARD SERVICE

1. POST REQUESTS CHANGE IN LEVEL OF SERVICE OF THE GUARD CONTRACT FROM 24 GUARDS TO 48. THE REASONS FOR THE REQUESTED CHANGE ARE AS FOLLOWS:

A) SINCE JULY 1975 THE GUARD CONTRACTOR HAS BEEN HARASSED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR FOR RENDERING 72 HOURS WORK WEEK FOR GUARDS. THIS IS CONTRARY TO THE LABOR CODE AND THE CONTRACTOR HAS BEEN THREATENED WITH A LAW SUIT. IN 1975 THE GUARD CONTRACTOR LOST A CASE BEFORE THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR. IN ORDER TO PREVENT A SIMILAR INCIDENT, THE POST REQUESTS PERMISSION TO REWRITE THE GUARD CONTRACT AND CHANGE THE LEVEL OF SERVICE TO REDUCE EACH GUARD WORK WEEK TO A 42 HOUR WORK WEEK. THIS WOULD INCREASE THE EFFICIENCY OF THE GUARDS SERVICE. IT WOULD ALSO DOUBLE THE NUMBER OF GUARDS FROM 24 TO 48.

B) THE CALIBER OF PERSONS ATTRACTED TO THIS KIND OF WORK IS POOR BECAUSE OF THE LOW SALARY OF \$40.00 PER MONTH. EMBASSY PROPOSES TO RAISE THE GUARDS' SALARY TO A MINIMUM OF \$75.00 PER MONTH IN ORDER TO ATTRACT A HIGHER CALIBER OF INDIVIDUALS.

C) EMBASSY PROPOSES TO PAY THE CONTRACTOR A FIXED FEE OF \$5.00 PER GUARD TO COVER OVERHEAD PLUS .15 CENTS A MILE UP TO
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MAXIMUM OF 30 MILES PER NIGHT FOR TRANSPORTATION AND SUPERVISION.

2. THESE CHANGES WOULD INCREASE THE CONTRACT COST FROM \$22,276 TO \$44,017. A NET INCREASE OF \$21,741.

3. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S TELEGRAPHIC APPROVAL TO

INCREASE THE SCOPE OF THE CONTRACT WITH ANTI-TERRORISM FUNDS. POST
REALIZES THAT ANTI-TERRORISM FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE FOR A LIMITED
RANGE OF COUNTER TERRORIST MEASURES INCLUDING GUARD SERVICE DESIGNED
TO THWART DELIBERATE ATTACKS ON OFFICIAL AMERICAN PERSONNEL OR USG
OWNED PROPERTY FOR POLITICAL MOTIVES. THE 12 HOURS GUARD SERVICE
PROPOSED WOULD CERTAINLY FALL WITHIN THIS SCOPE.

4. THESE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE GUARD CONTRACT ARE THE RESULT
OF RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY RSO DURING INSPECTION OF NOVEMBER 1976.

5. PROPOSED EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE NEW CONTRACT IS JANUARY 1, 1977.
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